

Washington has been operating ECEAP, our state-funded preschool program, since 1985. Research has clearly demonstrated that children who participate in high-quality preschool programs are more prepared for success in school. This is particularly true for children who are growing up in or near poverty. Over the past several years, the available body of research has grown and shown that there are several quality elements of preschool that are necessary to achieve the strongest growth and development for participating children.

Washington is poised to significantly expand its publicly funded preschool program:

- **Entitlement statute:** The Legislature has made preschool a statutory entitlement for eligible children from families with incomes at or below 110% of federal poverty level, or FPL, by school year 2018-19.
- **Federal preschool expansion grant:** Washington is eligible to apply for a competitive federal preschool grant of \$70 million over four years. This grant is designed to support efforts to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from families with incomes at or below 200% FPL for states that implement key quality elements.
- **Washington preschool:** As required by Senate Bill 6759 in 2011, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and DEL convened a group of stakeholders and advocates to create a comprehensive plan for an expanded voluntary statewide preschool program.
- **Strong structural supports:** Early Achievers, the Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS), ECEAP, Working Connections Child Care, and other state and federal resources are available to promote consistent elements of quality.

Essential preschool quality elements

- **Full school day (at least 5 hours)**
- **Highly trained and supported teachers with professional level qualifications and compensation**
- **Evidence-based curriculum**
- **Access to comprehensive services (health, nutrition, family support)**
- **Rich learning environments and adult-child interactions**

Combining ECEAP and federal funding

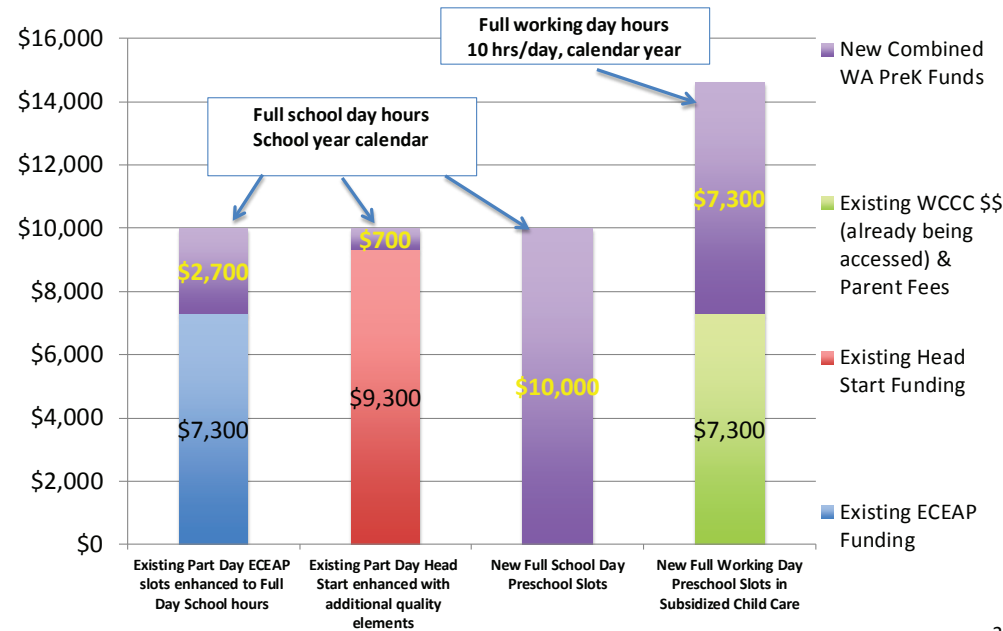
One way to ensure that ECEAP expansion increases access to quality is by combining state resources with potential resources available to the state with a competitive federal Preschool Expansion Grant. As demonstrated below, ECEAP expansion can leverage the federal preschool funds and enable Washington to offer preschool to more children with higher quality and intensity of services. No additional state dollars would be required to achieve this beyond what the state has already committed with entitlement by 2018-19.

	Current ECEAP	ECEAP expansion plan with state entitlement funding	Potential combining state and federal pre-k funding
Expansion slots	N/A	12,716 new part-day slots in 4 years	13,000 new full-day slots in 4 years
Total slots	10,091 slots 8,165 part-day 1,926 full-day	22,807 total slots 20,881 part-day 1,926 full-day	25,091 total slots* 4,165 part day 20,926 full-day
Full-day	Currently no strategy to provide additional full-day slots	Currently no strategy to provide additional full-day slots	6,000 part-day HS & ECEAP slots converted to full-day
Eligibility	Program limited to children from families 110% of FPL	Program limited to children from families up to 110% of FPL	Up to 22% of children from families up to 200% FPL (state funds restricted to only 110% FPL)
Quality enhancement plans	Existing quality improvement efforts; no additional funding	Existing quality improvement efforts; no additional funding	Federal start-up funding for quality enhancements (curriculum, tuition support, PD, etc.)

*Includes up to 2,000 children in "enhanced" Head Start (note that numbers may be subject to change)

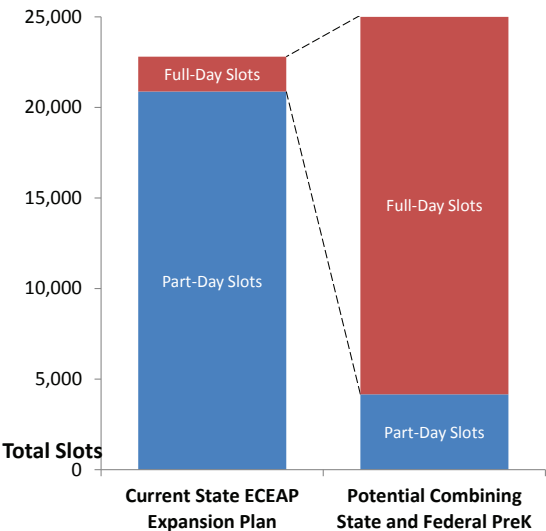
This funding model allows for a seamless preschool program on the ground by combining state and federal funds at the state level. All children will receive the same program quality regardless of the funding stream or program setting.

Four funding paths to high-quality preschool



Combining the existing state commitment with the federal grant will:

- Ensure all programs have access to full-day funding.
- Relieve pressure on state child care subsidy program by only using funds already being accessed.
- Maximize the number of children served with new funds.
- Capitalize on mixed delivery model.
- Honor the legislative commitment to achieving entitlement and using state funding for the most at-risk children and families.



Post federal funding scenarios

Unlike the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, the federal preschool application funds direct services, not infrastructure and system building. This provides the state with more options post-grant period.

Scenario #1: Sustain number of slots through additional funding

Continued funding becomes available to sustain the number of children served. Could be available through:

- New state funding
- Increased Working Connections Child Care funding
- Anticipated but not yet funded federal preschool opportunities

Scenario #2: Reduce the number of children served

- Quality improvements accomplished through the federal grant would be sustained (more qualified teachers and use of evidence-based curriculum)
- Reduce the number of children in ECEAP post-grant (e.g., limit to 4-year-olds)

Scenario #3: Find efficiencies in current programs

- Restructure current program elements
- Look for efficiencies among programs (Early Achievers, ECEAP, child care licensing, etc.)
- Increase private pay options for children from families with incomes above 110 percent FPL